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For Immediate Release
December 28, 2005
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DMME Amends its Public Participation Guidelines

- Amendment identifies who in agency will receive information related to appeals of agency decisions to court of law -

Richmond, VA - The Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) is amending its public participation guidelines to provide instructions on where parties appealing an agency decision to a court should file appeal notices, transcripts of hearing testimony and copies of petitions for appeal. The amendment, which is effective December 28, 2005, designates persons within the DMME to act as "agency secretary" for the purpose of receiving items relating to appeals of agency decisions that are being filed with a court.

The public participation guidelines are being amended pursuant to Rule 2A:1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, which states, "Every agency may, by regulation, name some individual to perform the function of agency secretary." DMME has designated four division heads to function as agency secretary.

Specifically, for appeals related to:

- **coal mine safety**, the director (Chief) of DMME's Division of Mines will perform the functions of agency secretary;
- **mineral mine safety and mineral mine reclamation**, the director of the Division of Mineral Mining will perform the functions of agency secretary;
- **natural gas and oil or geothermal energy**, the director of the Division of Gas and Oil will perform the functions of agency secretary; and
- **surface coal mining and reclamation**, the director of the Division of Mined Land Reclamation will perform the functions of agency secretary.

The amendments to the public participation guidelines were published in the Virginia Register of Regulations on December 28, 2005. A complete copy of the amended regulation can be viewed at: <http://leg1.state.va.us/000/reg/TOC04025.HTM#C0010>

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